

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11270 161543Z

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ACTION CU-03

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEU.

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SUBJECT: MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY'S PROFESSOR NIKOLAY SIVACHEV ON
EXCHANGES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10966, (B) MOSCOW 11013, (C) STATE 171646

1. SUMMARY: AT P&C COUNSELOR'S RECEPTION FOR DEPARTING CAO, PROFESSOR NIKOLAI SIVACHEV, HEAD OF MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY'S AMERICANISTICS COUNCIL, WAS PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY AND OPEN AND OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ON EXCHANGES, ESPECIALLY QUESTIONS OF PLACEMENT AND ARCHIVAL ACCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. SIVACHEV WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE FOR COLLECTION OF BOOKS EMBOFFS DELIVERED JULY 9 (SEE REF A). IN AN EXPANSIVE MOOD, SIVACHEV CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF LECTURER EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES CITED REF A. EMBOFFS MENTIONED INFORMALLY THAT SIVACHEV SHOULD PERHAPS VISIT CIES WHEN IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, AND SIVACHEV SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DO SO.

3. SOMEWHAT FURTHER ALONG IN DISCUSSION EMBOFF RAISED WITH HIM QUESTIONS OF PLACEMENTS FOR AMERICAN GS/YF EXCHANGEES AND ARCHIVAL ACCESS (SEE PARA 9, REF B). EMBOFF EXPLAINED TO SIVACHEV THAT SOVIET PATTERN OF PLACING SCHOLARS IN MOSCOW OR LENINGRAD WHEN THEY HAD REQUESTED SUCH CITIES AS L'VOV AND VILNIUS AND FREQUENTLY
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11270 161543Z

DIVERTING PEOPLE FROM MOSCOW TO LENINGRAD CREATED IN MINDS OF

MANY AMERICAN SCHOLARS IMPRESSION THAT SOVIET UNION WAS NOT INTERESTED IN AIDING IN THEIR RESEARCH BUT WAS INDEED TRYING TO OBSTRUCT IT. SIVACHEV REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS FEELING BUT THAT AMERICANS, AS SO OFTEN IS THE CASE, SEE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO BLOCK RESEARCH WHEN IT IS IN FACT TOTALLY INADEQUATE HOUSING AT "PERIPHERAL UNIVERSITIES" WHICH CAUSES SOVIETS TO NOT COMPLY WITH MANY REQUESTS ALTHOUGH, SIVACHEV SAID, THIS COULD NEVER BE ACKNOWLEDGED OFFICIALLY.

4. SIVACHEV DESCRIBED THE MATTER OF ACCESS TO ARCHIVES AS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE MATTER ON WHICH THE US SIDE SHOULD "REFER TO CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS KOSYGIN." SIVACHEV REPEATED THIS ADVICE SEVERAL TIMES DURING REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION. EMB OFFERED ASKED IF SIVACHEV MEANT THAT US SHOULD RAISE MATTER WITH MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR ARCHIVES, AN ORGANIZATION DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. SIVACHEV STRESSED THAT IF MATTER OF ARCHIVAL ACCESS HERE IS VIEWED AS HAVING SERIOUS BEARING ON DEVELOPMENT OF US-USSR RELATIONS IT SHOULD BE RAISED DIRECTLY AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LEVEL. SIVACHEV STRESSED THAT BOTH MHE AND ACADEMY WERE POWERLESS IN DEALING WITH ARCHIVAL ADMINISTRATION FOR SOVIET AS WELL AS FOREIGN SCHOLARS.

5. EMB HAS CONVEYED KASSOF-BAZHANOV LETTER (CONVEYED REF C) ON PLACEMENT OF AND ACCESS TO ARCHIVES FOR AMERICAN GS/YF EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS TO MHE. LETTER SHOULD SERVE TO FOCUS MINISTRY'S AWARENESS ON PROBLEMS WITH EXCHANGE AS PERCEIVED BY US SIDE AND ALSO TO PUT THESE DIFFICULTIES INTO POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE. IN LIGHT OF THIS AND FACT THAT NO AMERICANS ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH ACCESS, EMB SEES NO NEED TO PURSUE MATTER ON OTHER LEVELS AT THIS TIME. EMB SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT US SIDE RETAIN SIVACHEV'S SUGGESTION FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION IF AND WHEN FURTHER ACTION ON ARCHIVAL ACCESS IS DEEMED NECESSARY.

6. SIVACHEV ALSO PROVIDED SOME ADDITIONAL INFO ON HIS VISIT TO THE US (SEE PARA 6 REF A). HE WILL BE VISITING CHICAGO FOR DISCUSSION ON PUBLICATION OF BOOK HE AUTHORED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS. IN WASHINGTON HE WILL PURSUE RESEARCH INTERESTS AND HE ALSO HOPES TO VISIT TRUMAN LIBRARY IN INDEPENDENCE, MO. SIVACHEV EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE COULD VISIT IN WASHINGTON AT LEAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11270 161543Z

BRIEFLY WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND RICHMOND OF CU/EE. EMB FAVORS SIVACHEV VISIT TO DEPT AS VALUABLE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH MGU. IMPORTANCE AND DELICACY OF HIS ROLE AT MGU CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED.

7. SIVACHEV'S WIFE WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY HIM TO US THIS FALL FOR FIRST TIME. SHE HOLD IMPORTANT POSITION OF CURRICULUM ADVISOR IN RECTOR KHOKHLOV'S OFFICE. EMB RECOMMENDS DEPT CONSIDER ARRANGING

FOR HER TO VISIT UNIVERSITIES IN AREAS CITED ABOVE FOR MEETINGS
WITH DEANS AND PERSONS WORKING IN FIELD OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT.
AWARD OF PARTIAL GRANT TO HER MAY ALSO BE APPROPRIATE. IF DEPT
CONCURS, EMB WILL RAISE POSSIBILITY WITH HER AND OBTAIN MORE
SPECIFIC INFO ON HER INTERESTS AND REQUESTS RE PROPLE TO SEE.
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